

c) REMARKS

The pending claims are 1-16 with claims 1-3, 7 and 9-14 being independent.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 have been amended to better define the intended invention. Support for the amended claims can be found, inter alia, on page 9, line 22, page 10, line 20 to page 11, line 4 and page 20, line 11 to page 24, line 4, in the specification and Figs. 9-14.

Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Claims 5 and 6 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Jindai et al, U.S. 6,582,268 (Jindai). Claim 4 was rejected as obvious over Jindai '268. Applicants respectfully traverse the grounds of rejection.

Prior to addressing the grounds of rejection, Applicants wish to briefly review certain key features and advantages of the present claimed invention.

It is a feature of the present invention that groove 61 is formed in the support 9 having a fixing member 8 for fixing a substrate over which conductors (units) are formed (see page 8, lines 12-15 in the specification).

As defined in amended claim 1, the groove is arranged along a periphery of the fixing member. According to amended claim 2, the groove is arranged so as not to be overlapped with the fixing member and so as to surround the fixing member. According to amended claims 3 and 7, the groove is arranged to be adjacent to the fixing member and to surround the fixing member.

In contrast, according to Jindai, in the producing apparatus shown in Fig.11, the groove 221 is formed on the surface of the electrostatic chuck 216 (see column 16,

lines 52-59). Accordingly, the structure according to the present invention defined in claims 1-3 and 7 is clearly distinguished over the structure disclosed in Jindai.

In the present invention, heat generated by current following into a conductor can be exhausted into a side of the support. Accordingly, the tendency to form an undesirable temperature distribution in a region in which the conductor is arranged is suppressed. In particular, a dissipation of heat at an outer periphery of the region where the conductor is arranged (page 10, line 20 to page 11, line 11 and page 20, line 11 to page 24, line 20 and in Figs. 9-14) is suppressed.

The Examiner contends that Jindai allegedly teaches in Fig. 11 a rectangular groove that is formed along a periphery of a region where the conductor is formed. However, Jindai is silent with respect to the spatial relationship between a periphery of the electron source 210 and the groove. In particular, nothing in Jindai teaches or suggests a groove formed on the support so that a periphery of a region where the conductor is formed on the substrate is arranged along the groove. Jindai merely teaches that the inside of a groove 221 is formed in the surface of the electrostatic chuck 216 (col. 16, lines 53-54). The lead line to groove 221 is inward of the periphery of source 210. This suggests the groove doesn't extend to the periphery, if at all.

In addition, Fig. 11 in Jindai does not disclose any configuration of the groove. When the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to dimensions, then arguments based on these drawings are not persuasive. See MPEP §2125. In addition, Jindai fails to disclose that the groove is rectangular. See MPEP

§2125. Finally, Jindai fails to disclose that the periphery is spaced between opposed ends of the groove (Claim 7). Clearly, the drawings in Jindai fail to show, at all, that the periphery is spaced between the walls of the groove to further enhance heat dissipation.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the case be passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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